

## Rev. M. C. B. Mason, D.D.

Cincinnati, Ohio

DR. MASON is corresponding secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He was born on a sugar farm in Louisiana. He entered school when he was twelve years of age, learning his alphabet the first day. The following Sunday he entered Sunday-school for the first time in his life. That morning, as Dr. Mason tells the story, the school was singing, "Shall we gather at the river?" "I could not," says he, "for the life of me find out what it all meant, but as a last resort made up my mind if there was going to be any swimming there I could do my share."



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Subsequently he entered a school of higher grade, and after years of struggling, working sometimes by day and night to remain in school, he graduated

from New Orleans University in 1888 and Gammon Theological Seminary in 1891. The first eight years of his ministry were spent in New Orleans and Atlanta. During his pastorate in Atlanta he increased the membership from 360 to 1,000 and paid off an indebtedness of \$11,000.

Dr. Mason was elected field secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society in 1891, assistant corresponding secretary in 1895, and in 1896, at the General Conference, was elected corresponding secretary, being the first man of his race to hold such a position in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was reelected in 1900, 1904, and 1908. Dr. Mason is one of the most popular orators of his race.

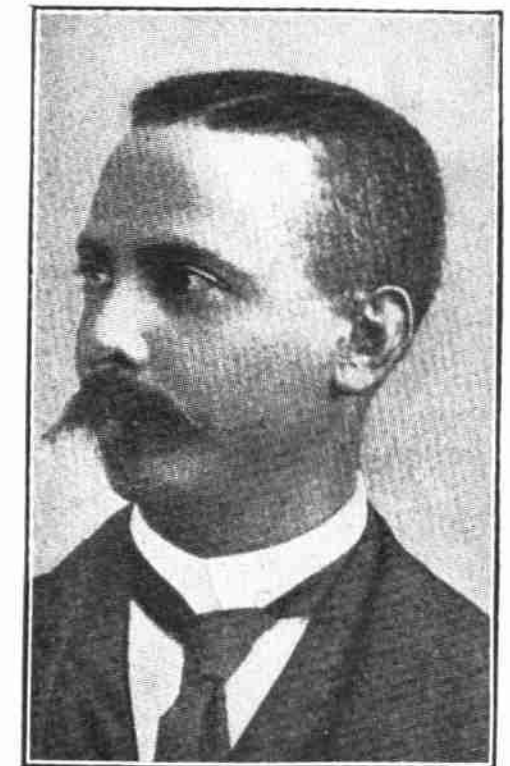
Dr. Mason at once, after his first election, undertook to develop the spirit of self-help among the colored people in the South, and in three years, in addition to the regular offerings for the educational work, he raised \$24,000 on the debt of the Society from the colored people alone. Under his leadership the spirit of self-help and self-reliance has been greatly developed among the colored people, as will be seen from the fact that nine years ago the aggregate amount contributed by them for the Freedmen's Aid Society was \$8,000. In 1908 they contributed \$32,250, being an increase of \$23,350.

## Rev. Charles C. Jacobs

Sumter, S. C.

DR. JACOBS is field secretary of the Sunday-schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church for colored conferences. He has served in that position since 1901.

He was born November 16, 1861, at Camden, S. C., and received his early education at the Jackson Normal School. At the age of seventeen he was teacher of a public school of the county, and three years later he began preparation for the ministry. He entered the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1884 and was first appointed to a church near Orangeburg, S. C., the site of Claflin University.



Rev. C. C. Jacobs

Dr. Jacobs was at this time the sole supporter of four orphan brothers and sisters. With two sisters and a brother he entered Claflin University. The other brother worked his way through Howard University, Washington, and Long Island Medical College, Brooklyn, N. Y. Dr. Jacobs graduated from the classical course of the university in 1890 as valedictorian of his class. In 1895 he was called from the pastorate of one of the churches of South Carolina to be state Sunday-school worker under the direction of Rev. Dr. Jesse L. Hurlbut, then corresponding secretary of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The work was enlarged so that his jurisdiction covered several other states. While in this work he was appointed presiding elder of the leading district of his conference. He accepted the position, although greatly surprised at the appointment. He remained in charge of this district for five years, when he was called to Sunday-school leadership of what is known as Washington Section of the Colored Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, comprising ten annual conferences and fifteen states.

He was elected to two general conferences of the church, and at the General Conference of 1904, at Los Angeles, Cal., was selected as associate editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate*, published during the Conference. Dr. Jacobs was an interested and influential member of the Clifton Conference.